

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 MCT-01 L-01 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 922

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10251

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR ET

SUBJ: ALLEGED CIA CONNECTION WITH ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY (EPRP)

REF: ADDIS ABABA 10204

1. ETHIOPIAN HERALD SEPT 14, IN REPORTING REVOLUTION DAY
PARADE IN ADDIS, MADE FURTHER REFERNECE TO SLOGANS CARRIED
BY MARCHERS LINKING EPRP TO CIA. ACCORDING TO HERALD,
"WAVES AFTER WAVES" OF WORKERS WENT BY WHOSE MAIN SLOGANS
INCLUDED "EPRP IS CIA, CIA IS EPRP, PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT
IS THE SLOGAN OF REACTIONARIES, IMMEDIATE PEOPLE'S GOVERMENT
IS ANOUTDATED SLOGAN OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES, EPRP
IS THE ENEMY OF THE MASSES OF ETHIOPIA, DOWN WITH REACTIONARY
TEACHERS, DOWN WITH IMPERIALIST DOGS, OPPORTUNIST JOURNALISTS
ARE ENEMIES OF WORKERS," ETC.

2. REPORT APPEARED ALONG WITH SECOND PMAC BLAST CONDEMNING
EPRP FOR ITS ALLEGED ROLE IN OPPOSITION TO ETHIOPIAN
REVOLUTION, INCLUDING LISTING AND DESCRIPTION OF 14
SPECIFIC INSTANCES "WITH CONCRETE EVIDENCE IN WHICH
ANARCHIST GROUP COMMITTED CRIMES IN LABOR CIRCLES IN
URBAN CENTERS" (SEPTEL).

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3. LIKE FIRST STATMENT, SECOND MAKES NO REFERENCE TO CIA. EPMG WOULD PROBABLY SAY THAT PUBLIC LINKING OF CIA WITH EPRP WAS THEREFORE PRIVATE EXPRESSION OF OPINION OF ONE GROUP OF MARCHERS. NONETHELESS, WE DOUBT THAT ANY PLACARD CARRIED IN THE ARADE DID NOT HAVE AT LEAST PASSIVE, I NOT EXPLICIT APPROVAL OF DIRG. THIS, PLUS FACT THAT ANNOUNCER AT PARADE SEEMED TO MAKE SPECIAL POINT OF INSURING THAT THOSE IN ATTENDANCE GOT MESSAGE, AND PARTICULARLY ITS REAPPEARANCE AGAIN IN TODAY'S PRESS, SUGGESTS THAT MEDIA MAY NOT INTEND TO LEAVE THEME ALONE, AND THAT WE MAY HEAR MORE OF IT.

4. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD CALL MATTER TO ATTENTION OF TPMG THROUGH MOFA, EXPLICITLY DENY ANY CONNECTION,EXPRESS OUR CONCERN THAT ALLEGATION HAS RECEIVED SUCH WIDE PUBLICITY AND OUR RELATED CONCERN THAT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY SUCH PUBLICITY CAN BE HARMFUL TO AMERICANS RESIDING IN ETHIOPIA, INQUIRE WHETHER EPMG BELIEVES THERE IS ANY FOUNDATION TO THE ALLEGATION, AND IF NOT ASK THAT THIS SOMEHOW BE MADE CLEAR TO PUBLIC (PROBABLY A FORLORN HOPE). IF DEPT AGREES SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE DESIRABLE, I WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS SOONEST, SINCE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO MAKE APPROACH DIRECTLY TO FONMIN KIFLE WODAJI, AND KIFLE IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR UNGA THIS WEEKEND.
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